
Subject: Re: "shrink" structures

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Mon, 08 Feb 2010 13:36:21 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David gave a nice solution to this question but I have a couple of additional comments:

On Feb 8, 5:00 am, Johannes Korn <k...@freisingnet.de> wrote:

```
>  
> I would like to "shrink" d to contain only a specific date.  
>  
> Something like  
> ind=where(d.date eq '10052000')  
> d = d[ind]  
>
```

This would work if you had an array of structures, but not if each tag is an array. I made the same mistake a couple of weeks ago, when I had a large structure and was trying to save memory by subscribing to the values I needed. Instead I found my machine crawling to a halt because the line "d = d[ind]" will actually duplicate the structure by the number of values in 'ind', gobbling up all my remaining memory.

```
> This doesn't work of course but I thought at least d.date = d.date[ind]  
> should. But this doesn't resize d.date but only fills all locations with  
> the values of d.date[ind].  
>
```

You cannot change the data type or dimensions of a structure tag. That is why David's solution involves creating a whole new structure. (You might want to TEMPORARY() the original structure if your purpose is to save memory.)

But my main problem is with READ_ASCII. The case of reading values into a structure where every tag has the same dimension size really cries out for the use of a structure array (where each element of the structure array corresponds to a "row" of the original ASCII data). I can't think of any drawbacks to this (but I wouldn't be surprised if someone proves me wrong), and it would make things like subscribing the structure much, much easier.

--Wayne
